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COMMENT OF THE DAY

Party Above The State

NEVER before have party interests been permitted to dominate a French presidential election as during the last six days. The course of events at Versailles has become as bewildering to Frenchmen as it is to foreigners. Traditionally the French Republic demands that the head of the State should be an arbitrator above party, and in the past the President has almost always been elected on the first ballot. By custom, too, candidates once defeated, have retired from the contest. But in this year's election both tradition and custom have been sacrificed on the altar of party interest. The various factions, by their behaviour, have given notice that they are more interested in electing a man who will represent their political viewpoints than in finding a candidate most suitable to the presidential office. The effect of these tactics is distressing. French prestige overseas must to some extent suffer, while in France public opinion is likely to become wholly cynical. Without doubt it has been shocked to see the highest post in the land become the object of one of the fiercest and most merciless dogfights seen even in day to day politics.

THE solution to the current dilemma is still obscure. That M. Laniel has finally decided to withdraw from the contest opens up possibilities of a candidate being found who is acceptable to all the principal parties. But this is by no means certain. The Radicals, Conservatives, Socialists and De Gaullists are clinging tenaciously to their fixed ideas of the type of candidate who should occupy the Presidential Palace. The Radicals do not appear to be the slightest bit willing to renounce their support for the veteran statesman, M. Herriot, although he himself has resisted their overtures. On the other hand the De Gaullists have blankly refused to consider support for anybody they consider to be an obscure politician. They are prepared to back M. Laniel, and have done so consistently in the ten ballots that have taken place, but they have indicated no willingness to vote for any substitute who may be put forward in his place. Thus the stalemate is complete, and in the final analysis the Socialists may well win the day and persuade the incumbent President, M. Auriol, to accept another term of office. This, in fact, appears to be the only solution to the problem.

LANIEL WITHDRAWS

The Christmas Holidays

Tomorrow (Christmas Eve) the China Mail will publish its 20-page issue which normally appears on a Saturday. The paper will be on sale shortly after 10.30 a.m. Because of the Christmas holidays the China Mail will not publish again until Monday, December 28. There will be no issue of the South China Morning Post on Christmas Day, Boxing Day or Sunday. Publication will resume on Monday next. The Sunday Post-Herald will appear this week on Christmas Day.

THE QUEEN LANDS AT AUCKLAND

Auckland, Dec. 23. Queen Elizabeth stepped ashore from the Royal yacht, the Gothic, at 10.35 local time, here this morning—the first reigning monarch to visit this farthest of the British Dominions.

A curtain of low clouds hid the Gothic from thousands of Aucklanders lining the hills overlooking the harbour as she approached.

A light drizzle had begun to fall. Streets in the harbour approached were packed with crowds in spite of the early hour. The Gothic's course into Waitemata (Sparkling Waters) harbour was guarded by 20 patrol boats, behind which were ranged hundreds of yachts and other small craft dotting the harbour.

New Zealanders set out early from their homes eager to greet their Queen at Auckland. Despite the overnight weather warnings, thousands of cars were parked bumper to bumper in all the roadways round the harbour, while on the hillside family parties enjoyed picnic breakfasts in the misty drizzle.

In the heart of this city of 350,000, groups of young people, seated on the pavements, sang as they waited.

The Queen, wearing a head scarf, and her husband watched from the saluting platform over the Gothic's bridge as the Royal yacht made her way through the 2,000 beflagged yachts and small craft lining the approach.

Every type of small craft was represented, from ferryboat to graceful yacht. Motor boats sailing close alongside cheered and passengers waved to the Queen and the Duke, who waved in reply.

Ashore and aloft, sirens, hooters and train whistles swelled the tumult of cheering as the Gothic moved up to the central wharf.—Reuter.

Barge Explodes

Port Pleasant, W. Virginia, Dec. 22. At least six men were killed, when an oil barge exploded on the Ohio River today, according to reports reaching the Charleston police.—France-Press.

New Turn In Presidential Election

FRANTIC SEARCH FOR CANDIDATE

Versailles, Dec. 22.

Premier Joseph Laniel, Independent, withdrew his candidacy for the Presidency of France tonight amid loud clamour from leading political groups in Congress for a "union" candidate.

The withdrawal of M. Laniel, strongest candidate in the last eight of 10 indecisive ballots, set off a frantic last-minute search by Republican groups for a popular candidate to put up before the 11th ballot opens tomorrow at 9 a.m. GMT (5 p.m. Wednesday, Hongkong time).

The Independents were tonight still debating between two choices, Senator Rene Coty and M. Louis Jacquinot, Minister for Overseas Territories in the present Cabinet.

The Radicals were due to give their views of the choice of a compromise "unity" candidate tomorrow after the Independents have made up their minds.

In the meantime the Socialists reaffirmed strongly that they would continue to maintain their official candidate, M. Marcel Edmond Naegelen, hitherto Premier Laniel's strongest rival. Their price for withdrawing M. Naegelen was the return of the incumbent President Vincent Auriol.

M. Laniel made his withdrawal statement after a meeting with the heads of the groups who had given him his majority, though not absolute, so far. "Since this majority is insufficient I withdraw my candidacy," he said. "I wish indeed that tomorrow, as a result of the discussions held today, our groups in the Congress will vote for a candidate who will not owe his nomination to any elements other than those of the national majority in Parliament."

MODERATES

Senator Coty loomed tonight as being the probable choice of the Independent groups as M. Laniel's successor. Both come from the same province of Normandy and both represent the same moderate political thinking of the Independents. And like M. Laniel, Senator Coty sat in Parliament before the war and is a link between the Third and Fourth Republics.

Another factor in Senator Coty's favour was the psychological strain and stress the nation's harried legislators have been going through in six days of indecisive voting.

In the meantime the Christian Democrats (MRP), whose candidate was M. Georges Bidault, the present Foreign Minister, were still without a new candidate but they were believed to be considering putting up either M. Jean Marie-Louvet, the present Minister of Commerce, or M. Pierre Bourdeau, the latter an unsuccessful candidate in the first ballot on the dissident De Gaulist (URAS) group.—France-Press.

AURIOL & HERRIOT
Versailles, Dec. 22. Exhausted parliamentarians trying to find a new President for France, today called on tired and reluctant President Vincent Auriol or 81-year-old elder statesman Edouard Herriot to step in temporarily to solve the presidential stalemate.

All day different groups tried to induce the two "tired old men" to take office for at least a short period while the extreme bitterness between the political parties of France cooled. Faced with their 11th ballot attempt to elect a new President to replace M. Auriol, the weary deputies and Senators did not even vote today. Instead, they adjourned the 11th round until 9 a.m. GMT tomorrow.

The balloting has now run five times longer than in any previous election. The law-makers have already gone up and down a total of 147,200 steps to the voting urns in the Palace of Versailles and walked some 120 miles for the whole ritual.

Their names have been shouted by a brass-banded band 9,460 times. Different groups sought in the interim to obtain agreement by M. Auriol or M. Herriot to take office temporarily. Later a new try would be made.

Families Trapped By Bush Fires

Sydney, Dec. 22.

Raging bush fires trapped many persons behind walls of flame in New South Wales today as the scorching heat wave continued into its second day.

At least one person was dead and hundreds more had collapsed from the heat.

Seven families were trapped by the fires near the coal mining centre of Lithgow, some 100 miles west of here. Officials feared for their safety because nothing has been heard from the area since a fire captain escaped by running a gauntlet of flames.

Temperatures in the country centres still continued to hover above the 100 Fahrenheit degree mark, but in Sydney a cooling southerly wind brought some relief.

The heat is ruining late wheat crops and killing hundreds of head of cattle and destroying thousands of acres of grazing and forest lands.—United Press.

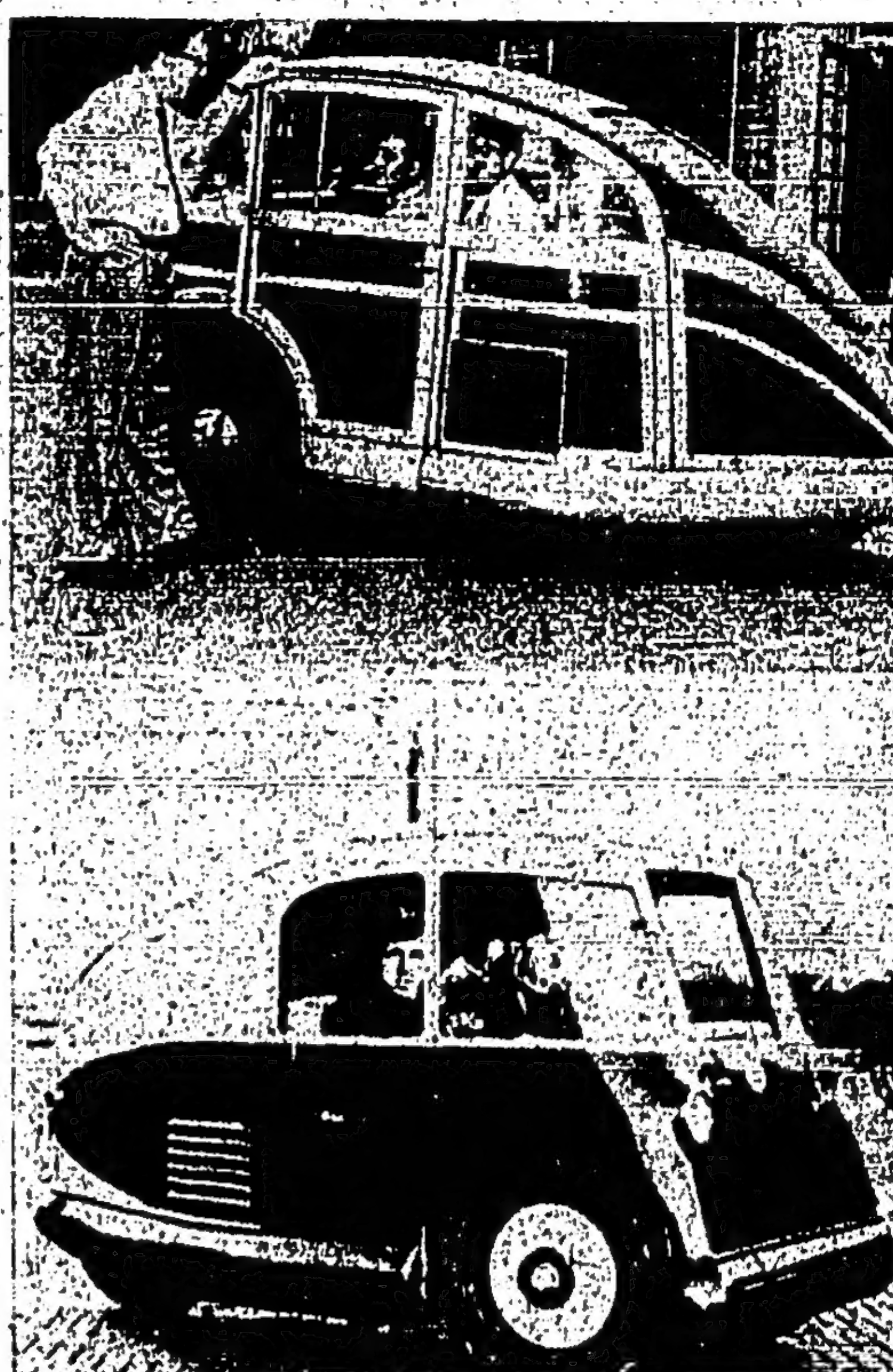
Father & Daughter Electrocutd

Brisbane, Dec. 23.

Athol Andrew Macquoen and his two-year-old daughter were electrocuted when the wire of a child's swing in the house porch cut through to an electric cable running on the same beam.

Mr Macquoen of Moorooka near here received a fatal shock when he rushed out to pick his daughter, lying unconscious on the swing. Her brother Colin, aged four, who had been swinging, was swept with shock and burns.—Reuter.

A 3-Wheel Vehicle



The Martin Stationette—the latest vehicle to be seen on the roads of the United States—is designed to sell at an extremely low price. It is fitted with a 24 hp engine, has a cruising speed of 50-55 m.p.h. and has 43 cubic feet storage space besides accommodation for driver and passenger. It is one of the smallest vehicles used on American roads and is expected to prove extremely popular. It is a three wheel job and was invented by James R. Martin.—London Express.

ATOM "BANK" DISCUSSIONS

US Wont Accept "Preconditions"

Washington, Dec. 22.

Mr John Foster Dulles, United States Secretary of State, said today the United States would not accept any dangerous "preconditions" proposed by the Soviet Union for atom peace talks.

He was asked after a luncheon address to the National Press Club whether yesterday's Soviet reply agreeing to private talks on President Eisenhower's atom bank plan contained any "trap."

He replied: "I do not think there is anything in the Soviet note which would mean that acceptance would jeopardise the so-called peaceful stockpiling plans of the President."

"Of course in all of these matters the Soviet Union consistently attempts to create preconditions for a conference which will gain for it many of the results which it would hope to get out of a conference."

"They think we are so eager to have a conference that by offering it, we will pay a price giving them greater advantages than they could hope to get out of a conference."

Mr Dulles declared: "We are on to that game. We are not going to be so eager to have a conference that we would give away in advance the things we hope to accomplish at the conference."

He added: "We are not going into the conference with respect to atomic energy on terms which would jeopardise in advance the President's programme."

Asked if the United States would agree to discuss a ban on atomic weapons as well as an atomic pool in the private conversations, Mr Dulles said the President had not specifically dealt with that matter.

He said the President stated the United States would enter a conference which would be designed to try to end the danger of atomic warfare. "He did not limit his proposal to just discussing his concept (of an atomic pool)."

In his speech to the Press Club, Mr Dulles said that "the Soviet rulers' exploitation of their own and the satellite peoples' has reached a point where it would be reckless for them to engage in general war."—Reuter.

POSTAL STRIKE THREAT

Paris, Dec. 22.

France faced a partial postal strike tonight at the busiest time of the year, as the Communist-led CGT and the autonomous union federations called on their members in the railway post offices and mail coaches to quit work immediately until 7 p.m., on Christmas Day.

It was not clear how seriously the government's various communications services would be affected, as there was no immediate word from the Socialist-led and Christian trade union federations on the stoppage.

A communique issued tonight by the CGT and autonomous unions jointly referred to the strike as "a warning." It said that the unions' demands had not been satisfied by the authorities since August 25.

A nationwide strike of government employees, including post office, telephone, and telegraph employees, paralysed the communications systems for several weeks last summer.—France-Press.

AIR STRIKE LATEST

Paris, Dec. 22.

The Strike Committee of the civil French aviation industry today decided to continue to enforce the walk-out of the security personnel, which has reduced air services in France for the past several days.

The committee decided on its action after a three-hour meeting with the Secretary for Civil Aviation, M. Paul Deviant, resulting in failure to secure agreement on the wage demands.

The committee said, however, that the aviation personnel had agreed to assure the protection of aircraft whose crews had been marooned abroad, or in the French Union, because of the strike, so that they could return home for the Christmas holidays.

The committee also announced that personnel in Dakar, French West Africa, had agreed to join the strike.—France-Press.

Best Production Since 1938

London, Dec. 22.

Britain's miners produced more coal last week than in any week since 1938.

According to provisional figures issued tonight by the Ministry of Fuel and Power, they raised 4,772,200 tons of deep-mined coal and 230,700 tons of open cast—a total of 5,002,900 tons for the week ended 19.

This is the highest output since February 1938 before open cast mining had started when the figure was 5,020,800 tons.—Reuter.

How do YOU
rate on a health chart?

If you were asked to assess your own chances of living to a healthy and vigorous old age, what would your assessment be? Good? Fair? Indifferent?

Whether you assess yourself as A1 or C3, whether you are 25 or 70, whether you are housewife or business executive, career girl or old-age pensioner, there begins in tomorrow's China Mail a health series you must not miss.

The most expert medical advice has been sought in framing this series. But it is more than a health guide.

What can you get from this series? Read and learn from

HOW TO LIVE TO BE 100
in tomorrow's CHINA MAIL

"DEAD" MEN RETURN

Rio de Janeiro, Dec. 22. After living for five years on a desert island, four Brazilian fishermen came home to find their "widows" happily remarried.

The newspapers of Victoria, the capital of the state of Espirito Santo, which related the story, said that the fishermen had taken refuge on the desert island after their tanker had been wrecked by a storm. They had been given up for lost, but were finally picked up by a ship which called at the island.—France-Press.

SOVIET OFFER

London, Dec. 22. The Soviet Foreign Minister, M. Vyacheslav Molotov, has said Russia would be willing to accept an Indonesian Ambassador to Moscow and to turn be ready to send an Ambassador to Djakarta, the Soviet Foreign Ministry announced today, according to Tass, the Soviet news agency.—Reuter.

Beria Hate Campaign

London, Dec. 22.

Soviet newspapers stirred up another campaign of hate against Beria today and Western observers predicted that his trial and punishment as a traitor might not be far away.

The Moscow newspapers Izvestia and Trud joined the Communist Party newspaper Pravda in reporting a wave of "designations" meetings at which Soviet workers expressed "boundless wrath" against the former Interior Minister and the men indicted along with him, according to Moscow dispatches.

Western observers in Moscow were quoted as saying Beria's trial and the carrying out of the verdict were "still expected imminently."—United Press.

Freighter Blows Up: 3 Killed

Bari, Italy, Dec. 22.

Three crewmen were killed and two gravely injured today when the 108-ton Italian freighter Fernando blew up just off the coast of Yugoslavia. Radio messages picked up from the freighter Latina said that its skipper, Gastino Diacovich, and two other crew members escaped unhurt.—United Press.

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 TECHNICOLOR MUSICAL
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New Sudanese Parliament Meets On New Year's Day

Khartoum, Dec. 22. The Governor General of the Sudan, Sir Robert Howe, has summoned the first Parliament of the Sudan to meet on January 1.

After consultations with his commission, the Governor General has appointed 100 National Unionists, four Umma Party representatives, one Socialist Republican, three Southerners and two Independents as members of the Senate. It was announced yesterday.

With the appointed members, the announcement said, the National Unionists now have 32 seats in the Senate, the Umma seven, the Southerners six, the Socialists four, and the Independents one.

Positions of the parties in the House of Representatives, as given after the elections for the Lower House, were: National Unionists 50, Umma Party 23, Independents 11, Southern Party nine, Socialist Republicans three, anti-Imperialist Front one. — China Mail Special.

Twelve Good Reasons Fell On Deaf Ears

Mauchline, Scotland, Dec. 22. A boiler fireman with 12 good reasons for not taking a vacation in 12 years began his "summer" holiday since 1941 without pay to prevent angry fellow workers from striking.

Forty-five-year-old Willie Farrell went home from the coal mine where he works to his wife and 11 children who were the reasons he could not afford a vacation all those years.

"This holiday will be set-back but we will manage," he said, looking at the children ranging from two weeks to 17 years. He has worked every holiday in the last 12 years at double pay to feed and clothe them.

But this year his 850 fellow workmen protested about Farrell's inactivity and threatened to go on strike if he did not take his vacation like everybody else.

Farrell's enforced holiday will be without regular pay, but vacation was scheduled for last July and he worked right through it as usual, for the extra money. — United Press.

New Command For Canadian

Ottawa, Dec. 22. The colourful officer who first led Canadian troops into Korea has been appointed to a new command.

Brigadier J. M. "Rocky" Rockingham, now winding up a course at the Imperial Defence College in the United Kingdom, has been named Commander of the 3rd Infantry Brigade. He is due back in Canada soon to take over the group, which will have headquarters at Valcartier, Quebec.

Brigadier Rockingham, now 41, was the Commanding Officer of the 25th Brigade, which first went into action in Korea in 1951.

The Australian-born officer, who became a symbol of World War II veterans who went back into uniform when the special Korean Brigade was formed, returned to Canada from the Far East in April, 1952.

He was Director-General of Military Training at Headquarters here before starting the United Kingdom course. — United Press.

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Sacramento, Cal., Dec. 22. The U.S. Air Force will spread a vast air-observation network extending from the West coast far out over the Pacific early next year with a new squadron of specially-fitted "flying radar stations."

Previously this work has been undertaken by converted bombers and conventional reconnaissance planes but now the Lockheed Corporation have developed a "bulge-bellied" version of the Super-Constellation to undertake the work.

The U.S.A.F. has taken delivery of its first "flying radar station" and the squadron will be built up early next year and commence operational duties immediately.

Pakistan Wants Revision Of U.N. Charter In 1955

Karachi, Dec. 22. The Pakistani Premier, Mohammed Ali, today called for a strengthening of the United Nations Organisation, and said that Pakistan would support a revision of the Charter in 1955.

Mohammed Ali, who was speaking in an interview reported by Radio Pakistan, said that the United Nations should play a more effective part in international relations. He added that it was in the interest of small powers that the United Nations should have executive powers to enforce their decisions. — France-Press.

Arabian Nights City To Get Sewerage System

Baghdad, Iraq, Dec. 22. Baghdad municipal authorities have offered a French firm a preliminary contract to organise a complete new sewerage system under the city at a cost estimated at about 8,000,000 dinars (or sterling).

The city of 550,000 people, former capital of Haroun al Rashid of Arabian Nights fame, is also to have a third main street parallel to Rashid-street and Ghazi-street, two main squares and several more side-streets. Mayor Sayid Fakhr al-Tabaqbaqui stated.

The work will cost a further 4,000,000 dinars (or sterling). — Reuters.

To Study India's Language Groups

New Delhi, Dec. 22. The Indian Ambassador to Egypt, Mr. Sardar Parikkar, was named today a member of the commission which will study the question of the division of India according to linguistic provinces.

The creation of this commission was announced in Parliament today by the Indian Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

It was believed in authoritative circles that this nomination implied that Mr. Parikkar would have to give up his post as Ambassador to Egypt.

For a long time, several linguistic groups have been trying to have Indian provinces or states divided according to linguistic borders, and a three-man commission is to report on this much debated question before June, 1955. — France-Press.

U.K.-Pakistan Cotton Trade

Manchester, Dec. 22. The Lancashire-Pakistan Cotton Committee, set up recently to foster trade between the two countries, decided today to invite the Pakistani cotton industry to send a trade delegation to Lancashire as early as possible next year.

Sir Raymond Street, Chairman of the Cotton Board who is also Chairman of the new committee, said after today's meeting that it was hoped to establish a long term trade policy. — Reuters.

POP
 "THINGS CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS!"
 "A MAN CAN STAND JUST SO MUCH!"
 "MA-LETS MAKE IT UP!"
 "ALL-RIGHT FETCH YOUR TROUSERS AND I'LL MEND THE SPLIT!"
 Breach healed

Laundered Cat

Berkeley, Cal., Dec. 22. The salesman told Mrs. Mario E. Rydman her new washer would wash anything, and the machine's versatility was demonstrated yesterday.

Mrs. Rydman said she was startled to find two bewildered eyes staring from the washer while she started to lift out a flash-ed load of laundry. Her pet kitten, which had fallen into the machine, hopped out unharmed.

He was cleaner than he had ever been, she said. — United Press.

To Form New Cabinet For Vietnam

Paris, Dec. 22. Vietnam's High Commissioner in France, Prince Bao Loc, who was designated by Emperor Bao Dai to form a new cabinet, left here tonight for Saigon.

Before leaving here, Bao Loc said that he believed it was his "duty to answer the Chief of State's appeal." He added that after an interview with Bao Dai and after consultation with the leading Vietnamese politicians, he hoped to draw up a programme that would "allow Vietnam to face the present circumstances."

Bao Loc then thanked the President of the Republic of France, M. Vincent Auriol, for the help he had given him in the performance of his mission as the Vietnamese High Commissioner in France, and the members of the French Government, for their "understanding" and "sympathy." — France-Press.

Royal Tour Good For U.K. Trade

London, Dec. 23. The Queen's tour of the Commonwealth has caused a minor trade boom for factories in the south of England.

Every country which the Queen will visit has ordered large quantities of souvenirs, military bands in the Colonies have bought equipment and uniforms.

Hotels in the West Indies and Malta asked for new furnishing in time for the Royal visit.

Domestic pottery firms, working at full capacity, are having to refuse orders. Some toy and fancy goods manufacturers have worked overtime to meet demands. — China Mail Special.

British Turbo-jets For Canada

London, Dec. 23. Britain will begin delivery next September of the first fleet of propeller jetliners to operate in North America.

Fifteen of Vickers Viscount 49 seaters were ordered by Trans-Canada Air Lines last year at a cost of 11,500,000 Canadian dollars.

This is claimed to be the largest dollar order placed in Britain since the war for the single product of one industry. — China Mail Special.

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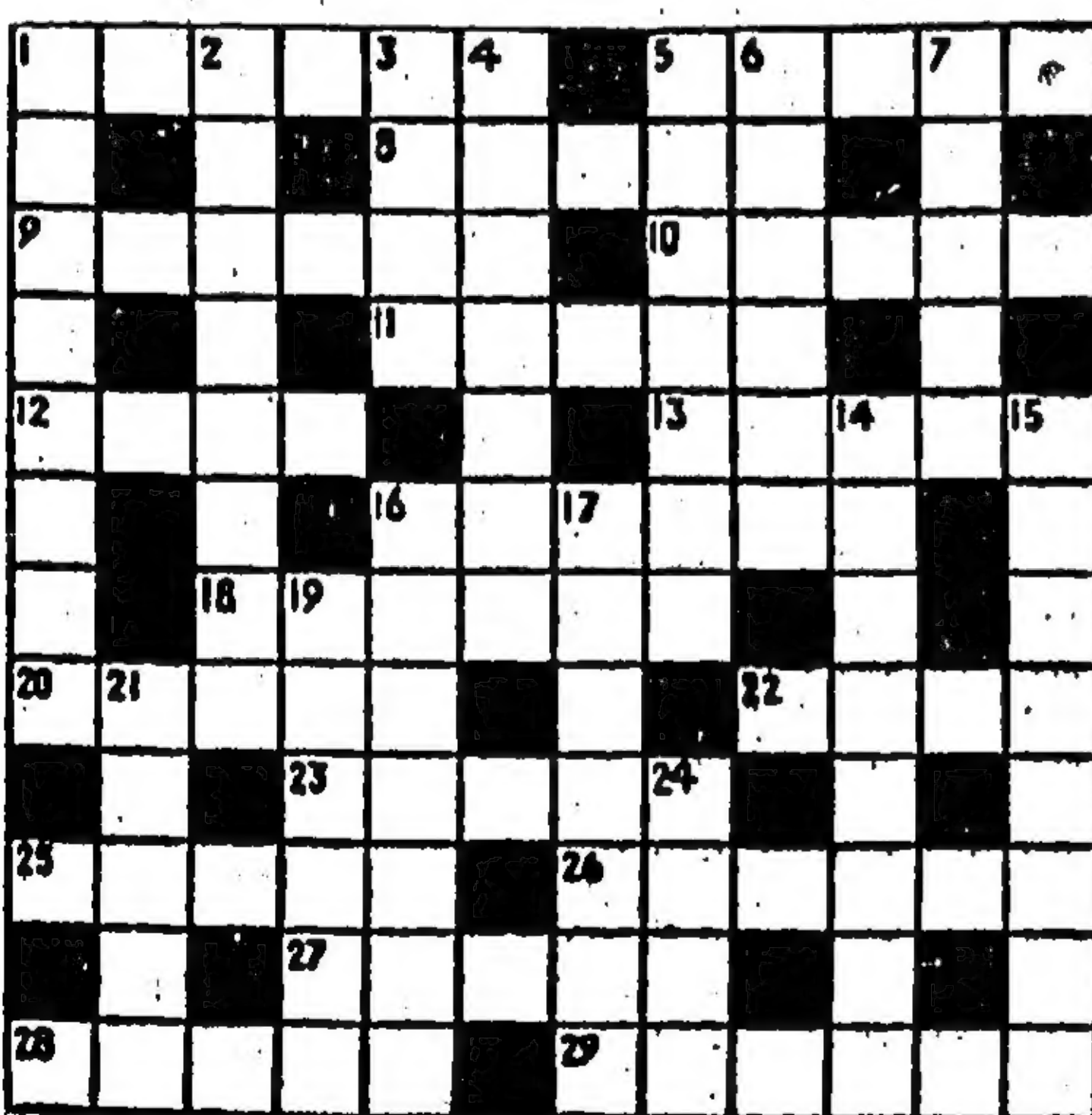
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- SLACKS
- JUMPERS
- PAIR-OFFS

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A British Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1 Disturbance (6).
- 5 Repose (5).
- 8 Added clause (6).
- 9 Decayed (6).
- 10 Substantial (5).
- 11 Pungent (5).
- 12 Consumes (4).
- 13 Writing-tables (6).
- 14 Awaken (6).
- 15 Expunge (6).
- 16 Exhausted (6).
- 17 Concoct (4).
- 18 Headquarters of regiment (6).
- 19 Scant (5).
- 20 Get the better of (6).
- 21 Royal (5).
- 22 Entertained (6).
- 23 Required (6).

DOWN

- 1 Stir up (8).
- 2 Height (8).
- 3 Extent (4).
- 4 Earnest (7).
- 6 Remainder (7).
- 7 Wears away (6).
- 9 Ruse (5).
- 14 Hild (8).
- 15 Pierced (8).
- 16 Changed (7).
- 17 Sofa (7).
- 18 Last (6).
- 21 Chaplain (6).
- 24 Nutritive (4).

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD: Across—3. Ages, 7. Spore, 8. Idea, 9. Stray, 10. Elevate, 12. Toll, 15. Enamored, 16. Gnat, 19. Enlist, 21. Paris, 22. Abet, 23. Seize, 24. Robe, 25. Mafioso, 26. Cause, 27. Tall, 32. Storm, 33. Deep, Down—1. Split, 2. Prevent, 4. Green, 6. Gift, 9. Moral, 10. Slow, 11. Amuse, 13. Omit, 14. List, 16. Debar, 17. Spur, 18. Grab, 20. Mediate, 22. Also, 24. Amuse, 25. Merry, 27. Opal, 28. Bold.

NO REAL CHANGE,
SAYS U.K.Russia's Reply To
Atom Proposal

London, Dec. 22.

British officials today cautiously welcomed Russia's acceptance of President Eisenhower's appeal for secret talks on atomic weapons but said the Kremlin appeared to have made no real change yet in its atomic control policy.

Russia's note to the United States yesterday repeated the Soviet demand for the complete abolition of atomic and hydrogen bombs—which has been the main stumbling block in East-West atomic disarmament talks in the United Nations.

The Soviet insistence of this point dampened the hopes of the British Government in the past that the Kremlin's willingness to meet privately could lead to any speedy progress towards big power agreement.

Britain which has set off atomic weapons of her own is known to be willing to join in the proposed talks on atomic control, it was learned today.

A Foreign Office spokesman described the Russian agreement to talk "a welcome development."

Britain would consult the other Western Powers on the Soviet note which officials were still studying. It would require a "good deal of further study," he said.

"BEAM OF LIGHT"

President Eisenhower's proposal that an international stockpile of fissionable materials should be set up under the United Nations for peaceful purposes was hailed by Sir Winston Churchill in a House of Commons speech last week. He called it a "beam of light" and said it was one of the most remarkable events since the Second World War.

Police Alert
In Kenya

Nairobi, Dec. 22.

The Kenya police were taking special precautions against the possibility of Mau Mau inspired incidents over the Christmas period, it was reported here today.

All the regular policemen and full-time reservists are to be on duty, and tonight, the Police Commissioner, S.O. Rorke, called on the home guards in Nairobi to play their part.

He said that there were rumours and some evidence that Nairobi and other areas might be warm during the next few days.

Mr. Rorke then recalled the series of murders that occurred in the Nyeri reserve on Christmas Eve in 1952, and said: "This being the greatest Christmas festival of the year, it is likely that the Mau Mau will try to make it a debacle from the Christian viewpoint."

Two Japanese scientists, the Secretary General of the Association of Democratic Scientists of Japan, Professors Hidetama Tuge and Haruo Okada, arrived in Moscow today at the invitation of the USSR Academy of Sciences, Moscow Radio reported.—Reuter.

Uganda King
Refused To
Act Against
Conscience

London, Dec. 22.

The Kabaka of Buganda was deposed by the British Colonial Office because he refused to act against his own conscience, the Buganda delegation said today in a formal statement.

In a 5,000-word reply to the Government's White Paper on the Kabaka's deposition, the Buganda delegation said the Kabaka was faced by a "crucial dilemma."

The Native Parliament and his advisers had asked the Governor for self-government in Buganda, a province of the Uganda Protectorate. They had also asked that the affairs of Buganda be handled by the British Foreign Office rather than the Colonial Office.

The Governor rejected these demands. "The Governor, in fact, went further," the statement says. "He insists that the Kabaka should, contrary to his own conscience, commend the Governor's policy to the Lukiko (Native Parliament)."

R.C.N. DESTROYERS
SAIL FOR JAPAN

Ottawa, Dec. 22.

The Canadian destroyers Huron, Iroquois and Crusader will rendezvous for Christmas at a United Nations base in Southern Japan, Navy headquarters announced today.

Two other RCN destroyers will be at sea on Christmas Day, the Navy said, steaming toward Japan to relieve ships on duty there.

They are the Haida, outward bound from Halifax, and the Cayuga, which sailed from Esquimaux, British Columbia, on November 25.—United Press.

Brazil To Set
Up Electric
Power Industry

Curitiba, Brazil, Dec. 22.

President Getulio Vargas announced yesterday that the Brazilian Government is preparing to establish a national electric power industry.

Mr. Vargas threatened to nationalise foreign power firms operating in Brazil because "they do not give us the service we require."

Brazil's electric power is largely in the hands of the American-owned American & Foreign Power Co., and the Brazilian Traction Company.

Mr. Vargas made the announcement during a speech at the conclusion of a regional conference of the governors of eight southern and central states.

The President said that the proposed government power industry would parallel the nationalist Government agency established for the development of Brazilian petroleum resources and known as Petrobras, from which all foreign capital is excluded.—United Press.

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"TRIUMPH AND TRAGEDY" . . . CHAPTER 34

PROPOSED MEETING OF BIG THREE

By Sir Winston Churchill

APPREHENSION for the future and many perplexities had filled my mind as I moved about among the cheering crowds of Londoners in their hour of well-won rejoicing after all they had gone through. The Hitler peril with its ordeals and privations, seemed to most of them to have vanished in a blaze of glory. The tremendous foe they had fought for more than five years had surrendered unconditionally.

All that remained for the three victorious Powers was to make a just and durable peace, guarded by a World Instrument, to bring the soldiers home to their longed-for loved ones, and to enter upon a Golden Age of prosperity and progress. No more, and surely, thought their peoples, no less.

However, there was another side to the picture. Japan was still unconquered. The atomic bomb was still unborn. The world was in confusion. The main bond of common danger which had united the Great Allies had vanished overnight. The Soviet menace, to my eyes, had already replaced the Nazi foe. No comradeship against it existed.

At home the foundations of national unity, upon which the wartime Government had stood so firmly, were also gone. Our strength, which had overcome so many storms, would no longer continue in the sunshine. How then could we reach that final settlement which alone could reward the toils and sufferings of the struggle?

I could not rid my mind of the fear that the victorious armies of democracy would soon disperse, and that the real and hardest test still lay before us. I had seen it all before. I remember that other joy-day nearly 20 years before, when I had driven with my wife from the Ministry of Munitions through similar multitudes convulsed with enthusiasm to Downing Street to congratulate the Prime Minister.

Then, as at this time, I understood the world-situation as a whole. But then at least there was no mighty army that we need fear.

MY prime thought was a meeting of the three great Powers, and I hoped that President Truman would come through London on the way. As will be seen, very different ideas were being pressed upon the new President from influential quarters in Washington. The sort of mood and outlook which had been noticed at Yalta had been strengthened.

The United States it was argued, must be careful not to let herself be drawn into any antagonism with Soviet Russia. This, it was thought, would stimulate British ambition and would make a new gulf in Europe.

The right policy should, on the other hand, be for the United

States to stand between Britain and Russia as a friendly mediator, or even arbiter, trying to reduce their differences about Poland or Austria and make things settle down into a quiet and happy peace, enabling American forces to be concentrated against Japan. These pressures must have been very strong upon Truman.

His natural instinct, as his historic actions have shown, may well have been different. I could not, of course, measure the forces at work in the brain-centre of our closest Ally, though I was soon conscious of them. I could only feel the vast manifestation of Soviet and Russian imperialism rolling forward over helpless lands.

OBVIOUSLY the first aim must be a conference with Stalin. Within three days of the German surrender I cabled the President:

"I think we should offer an invitation jointly or severally at the same moment to Stalin to meet us at some agreed unshattered town in Germany for a Tripartite meeting in July. We should not renounce the present Russian military zone. Twice running we have come to meet him. . . ."

I do not know at the moment when our General Election will be but I do not see any reason why it should influence your movements or mine where public duty calls. If you will entertain the idea of coming over here in the early days of July, his Majesty will send you the most cordial invitation and you will have a great reception from the British nation. . . ."

Thereafter we might move to the rendezvous fixed in Germany and have the grave discussions on which the immediate future of the world depends. I should of course bring with me representatives of both Parties in our State and both would use exactly the same language about foreign affairs, as we are closely agreed.

Therefore I urge your coming here in the earliest days of July and that we leave together to meet U.S. (Uncle Joe) at wherever is the best point outside Russian-occupied territory to which he can be induced to come. Meanwhile I earnestly hope that the American front will not recede from the now agreed tactical lines. I doubt very much whether any enticements will get a proposal for a Tripartite meeting out of Stalin. But I think he would respond to an invitation. If not, what are we to do?

I rejoice that your present intention is to adhere to our faithful interpretation of the Yalta Agreements and to stand firmly on our present announced attitude towards all the questions at issue. Mr. President, in these next two

• My subsequent talks—W.S.C.

months the gravest matters in the world will be decided. May I add that I have derived a great feeling of confidence from the correspondence we have interchanged?

He replied at once that he would rather have Stalin propose the meeting and he hoped our Ambassadors would induce him to suggest it. Mr. Truman then declared that he and I ought to go to the meeting separately so as to avoid any suspicion of "ganging up." When the conference ended, he hoped to visit England if his duties in America permitted.

I did not fail to notice the difference of view which this telegram conveyed, but I accepted the procedure the President proposed.

In these same days I also sent what may be called the "Iron Curtain" telegram to President Truman. Of all the public documents I have written on this issue I would rather be judged by this.

Prime Minister to President Truman, 12 May 45. I am profoundly concerned about the European situation. I learn that half the American Air Force in Europe has already begun to move to the Pacific theatre. The newspapers are full of the great movements of the American armies out of Europe. Our armies also are under previous arrangements, likely to undergo a marked reduction.

The Canadian Army will certainly leave. The French are weak and difficult to deal with. Anyone can see that in a very short space of time our armed power on the Continent will have vanished, except for moderate forces to hold down Germany.

Meanwhile what is to happen about Russia? I have always worked for friendship with Russia, but, like you, I feel deep anxiety because of their misinterpretation of the Yalta decisions. Their attitude towards Poland, their overwhelming influence in the Balkans, excepting Greece, the difficulties they make about Vienna, the combination of Russian power and the territories occupied, coupled with the Communist technique in so many other countries, and above all their power to maintain very large armies in the field for a long time.

What will be the position in a year or two, when the British and American Armies have melted and the French has not yet been formed on any major scale, when we may have a handful of divisions, mostly French, and when Russia may choose to keep 200 or 300 on active service?

An iron curtain is drawn down upon their front. We do not know what is going on behind. There seems little doubt that the whole of the regions east of the line Lubek-Trieste-Corfu will soon be completely in their hands. To this must be added the further enormous area conquered by the

American armies between Elbench and the Elbe, which will I suppose, in a few weeks be occupied, when the Americans retreat, by the Russian power.

All kinds of arrangements will have to be made by Gen. Eisenhower to prevent another immense flight of the German population westward as this enormous Muscovite advance into the centre of Europe takes place. And then the curtain will descend again to a very large extent, if not entirely. Thus, a broad band of many hundreds of miles of Russian-occupied territory will isolate us from Poland.

Meanwhile, the attention of our people will be occupied in inflicting avertures upon Germany, which is ruined and prostrate, and it would be open to the Russians in a very short time to advance, if they chose, to the waters of the North Sea and the Atlantic.

Surely it is vital now to come to an understanding with Russia, or see where we are with her, before we weaken our armies mortally or retire to the zones of occupation. This can only be done by a personal meeting. I should be most grateful for your opinion and advice.

Of course we may take the view that Russia will behave impeccably, and no doubt that offers the most convenient solution. To sum up, this issue of a settlement with Russia before our strength has gone seems to me to dwarf all others.

A WEEK passed before I heard again from Mr. Truman on the major issues. Then on May 22 he cabled that he had asked Mr. Joseph E. Davies to come to see me before the triple conference, about a number of matters he preferred not to be handled by cable. Mr. Davies had been the American Ambassador in Russia before the war, and was known to be most sympathetic to the regime.

I of course made immediate arrangements to receive him, and he spent the night of the 28th at Chequers. I had a very long talk with him. The crux of what he had to propose was that the President should meet Stalin first somewhere in Europe, before he saw me.

I was indeed astonished at this suggestion. I had not liked the President's earlier message of the term "ganging up" as applied to any meeting between him and me. Britain and the United States were united by bonds of principle and by agreement upon policy in many directions, and we were both at profound difference with the Soviets on many of the greatest issues.

On the other hand, for the President to bypass Great Britain and meet the head of the Soviet State alone would have been, not indeed a case of "ganging up"—for that was impossible—but an attempt to reach a single-handed understanding with Russia on the main issues upon which we

and the Americans were united. I would not agree in any circumstances to what seemed to be an affront, however unintentional, to our country after its faithful service in the cause of freedom from the first day of the war.

I objected to the implicit idea that the new disputes now opening with the Soviets lay between Britain and Russia. The United States was as fully concerned and committed as ourselves.

IN order that there should be no misconception I drafted a formal minute which I gave to Mr. Davies, after careful agreement with the Foreign Secretary, who had now returned to London.

In this note the Prime Minister suggested, though without insistence, that London, "the greatest city in the world, and very heavily battered during the war," was the natural place for the Victory meeting. He also discussed, at some length, the future of Eastern Europe.

[Some other passages from the note are given below.] The Prime Minister received with some surprise the suggestion conveyed by Mr. Davies that a meeting between President Truman and Premier Stalin should take place at some agreed point, and that the representatives of his Majesty's Government should be invited to join a few days later.

It must be understood that the representatives of His Majesty's Government would not be able to attend any meeting except as equal partners from its opening. This would be undoubtedly regrettable. The Prime Minister does not see that there is any need to raise an issue so wounding to Britain, to the British Empire and Commonwealth of Nations.

It must be remembered that Britain and the United States are united at this time upon the same ideologies, namely freedom, and the principles set out in the American Constitution and humbly reproduced with modern variations in the Atlantic Charter. The Soviet Government have a different philosophy, namely Communism, and use to the full the methods of police-government, which they are applying in every State which has fallen a victim to their liberating arms.

The Prime Minister cannot readily bring himself to accept the idea that the position of the United States is that Britain and Soviet Russia are just two foreign Powers, six of one and half a dozen of the other, with whom the troubles of the late war have to be adjusted. Except in so far as force is concerned, there is no equality between right and wrong.

The great causes and principles for which Britain and the United States have suffered and triumphed are not mere matters of the balance of power. They in fact involve the salvation of the world. . . .

He therefore urges (a) a meeting at the earliest moment, and (b) that the three major Powers shall be invited thereto as equals. He emphasises the fact that Great Britain would not be able to attend any meeting of a different character, and that of course the resulting controversy would compel him to defend in public the policy to which His Majesty's Government is vowed.

The President received this note in a kindly and understanding spirit, and replied on May 29 that he was considering possible dates for the Triple Conference. I was very glad to learn that all was well, and that the justice of our view was not unrecognised by our cherished friends.

On May 27 Stalin suggested that "the Three" should meet in Berlin in "the near future." I replied that I should be very glad to meet him and the President in what was left of the city, and that I hoped this meeting would take place about the middle of June.

(Continued Tomorrow)

NATHANIEL GUBBINS

AFTER hearing on the radio Evelyn Waugh's answers to intimate questions by three inquisitors here is Nat Gubbins "Frankly Speaking" in his usual replies to Nosy Parkers.

How old are you, Mr Gubbins?

Ninety-eight. Don't you think it's amazing to be writing a column at that age?

I think it's a miracle. When did you begin writing? When I was seven. What did you write then? Vulgar rhymes. Were they very vulgar?

Did they shock your family? Rather.

Do you like writing? No.

Why? Too difficult.

If you had not become a columnist, what would you have preferred to be?

A discipline clerk. Haunting bars and night clubs?

Yes, and spending on rich women.

Why didn't you sponge on rich women?

They wouldn't let me. Have you ever wanted to murder people of them?

Hundreds of them. What sort of people? People who ask silly questions.

Why didn't you murder them?

I didn't want to be hanged. Do you believe in capital punishment?

Certainly. Would you care to do it yourself as a paid executioner?

I'd hang some people for nothing.

What did you learn at school? Very little.

What did the headmaster think of you?

He thought I was the biggest fool he had ever seen. What did you think of him?

I thought he was the blindest fool I had ever seen.

Do you like women? When they're beautiful.

Do you like children? When they're asleep.

Do you like anybody? Yes.

What? Myself.

What kind of woman do you think a man should marry?

A deaf and dumb orphan. Well, thank you, Mr Gubbins.

Don't mention it.

Stinkentrouser Speaks

AS another Sunday newspaper is publishing the memoirs of Field-Marshal Kesselring, telling its delighted readers how the R.A.F. "wouldn't come up to fight" in the Battle of Britain, I have been fortunate enough to secure the exclusive rights of the memoirs of Captain-General-Lance-Corporal von Stinkentrouser, organiser of sympathy for Germany even before they lost the war, who witnessed the bombing of London, Coventry, and other places from a deep shelter on the French coast.

From this vantage point he was able to see everything that happened, and has had the nerve to state that Germany would have won the Battle of

Britain but for Hitler's interference, and to confirm Kesselring's opinion that the R.A.F. refused to challenge the German fighters.

As nothing is more likely to please all members of the R.A.F., past and present, to say nothing of the millions who endured the German air raids, I have paid even more money for these memoirs than was paid for Talulah Bankhead's life story, and at the time to be the highest figure ever paid in Fleet Street.

Moreover, I believe that this is a better way of cleaning up the "sex-sodden Press" than just sniggering at it. In other words, without even mentioning sex, or printing a single word, that might bring a blush of shame to the cheeks of the moralists, I shall be able to publish the dirtiest story of the century.

Anyway, I can think of nothing dirtier than for a German, not only to insult the Battle of Britain pilots who made it possible for me to publish anything at all but to insult their widows and children. Do please order your copy in advance.

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NORTH 25	
♦ J63	
♥ A743	
♠ 865	
♣ Q109	
WEST	
♦ K7	♦ Q10942
♥ KQJ95	♥ 10
♠ A972	♠ KJ1043
♣ 5	♣ 63
EAST	
♦ AK5	
♥ 862	
♠ None	
♣ AKJ8742	
SOUTH (D)	
♦ AK5	
♥ 862	
♠ None	
♣ AKJ8742	
Both sides vul.	
South West North East	
1 ♠ 1 ♠ 1 ♠ 1 ♠	
2 ♠ 2 ♠ 2 ♠ 2 ♠	
3 ♠ 3 ♠ 3 ♠ 3 ♠	
4 ♠ 4 ♠ 4 ♠ 4 ♠	
5 ♠ 5 ♠ 5 ♠ 5 ♠	
Opening lead—♥ K	

By OSWALD JACOBY

YOU may accuse South of over-bidding in today's hand and I may agree with you. I hate to quarrel with myself, however, and I am inclined to say that a player is entitled to overbid slightly if he can find a way to make his contract.

When West opened the king of hearts, it seemed to South that he was likely to lose two hearts and a spade. The situation might even be worse. South feared, since it was possible that West had a six-card heart suit, he had bid the suit after all, in which case East would ruff the first trick.

Since there was nothing else he could do about it, South gritted his teeth and played the ace of hearts from the dummy. He felt slightly relieved when East followed him, but this was only the first hurdle. He was still threatened with the loss of two hearts and a spade.

The right line of play was very clear, and South promptly adopted it. At the second trick he led a low diamond from the dummy and got to dummy with a trump in order to ruff another diamond. South's last diamond.

South then led down the ace of spades, hoping that the queen would drop. When this aim had failed to materialize, South led his last spade and closed his eyes.

When South opened his eyes, East had taken the spade trick with the queen and was now searching for a safe return. Whether East returned a spade or a diamond, dummy could ruff while South discarded one of the losing hearts. This situation was exactly what South had been hoping for when he ruffed out dummy's diamonds and trumped before tackling the spades.

CARD SENDS

Q—The bidding has been: South West North East
1 ♠ 1 ♠ 1 ♠ 1 ♠
2 ♠ 2 ♠ 2 ♠ 2 ♠
3 ♠ 3 ♠ 3 ♠ 3 ♠
4 ♠ 4 ♠ 4 ♠ 4 ♠
5 ♠ 5 ♠ 5 ♠ 5 ♠

You, South, hold: Spades 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Peng-soon & Co. To Tour The United States

Singapore, Dec. 23.
The World Badminton Champion, Wong Peng-soon, and a team of Malayan stars will play a series of exhibition games in the United States early next year.

Wong and his team, who returned here last night from Bangkok after a tour of Formosa, Hongkong and Thailand, made the disclosure that they were invited to tour the United States and arrangements were finalised with "some American individuals" in Hongkong.

Wong stressed that the tour was not sponsored by the American Badminton Association.

Asked to comment on the ban imposed by the Badminton Association of Malaya—he and his team will not be allowed to

participate in future Malayan tournaments—Wong said, "I don't care a hoot for the Badminton Association of Malaya. We are now independent players."

His teammates echoed: "We have nothing to do with the Badminton Association of Malaya. We are not interested in its actions."

THAI CHALLENGE

Commenting on his tour, Wong said he was amazed at the improvement shown by the Thai players. He said the Thais had improved considerably since he saw them last and he predicted that Thailand would soon be a serious challenger for the Thomas Cup.

The World Champion said Hongkong was improving rapidly in the game but badminton was still in its infancy in

Taipei. The Malayan team received a heroes' welcome wherever they went, he said. His greatest moment, he added, was when he met Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek.

"I managed to converse with the President in Mandarin," he said.—United Press.

Gault To Fight Tanny Campo

Manila, Dec. 23.
Henry Pappy Gault, No. 1 contender for the world bantamweight crown, has been approached to fight Philippine fly-bantamweight champion Tanny Campo late next month, the Manila Times reported today.

The fight, tentatively set for January 30 at the Rizal Stadium here, is slated to go 10 rounds. Negotiations for the bout are being made by a new local promoter, Felipe Donoso.

Gault last month lost to World bantamweight champion Jimmy Carruthers in Australia.—France-Press.

MUD... AND MORE MUD



Sixty-seven cyclists who competed in a trial near Copenhagen recently found that a heavy rainstorm made it a trial unlike any trial before. This is a typical scene as one of the competitors had to push his machine along when it got stuck in the mud. The spinning wheels sent much of the mud flying through the air.—Express Photo.

SPOTLIGHTING THE THREE-YEAR-OLDS OF 1954

Buffoon Will Go For The Guineas

By JAMES PARK

Mr J. A. Dewar breeds on the best lines, but his rising three-year-olds fell short of the top class. There once seemed a prospect of Buffoon going a long way, but he did not fulfil expectations.

After a promising first appearance at Salisbury in May, he was rested until September, when he beat Man About Town by three lengths.

Buffoon was flattered by the form as Man About Town, drawn near the stands side, missed his break. The jockey tried for an opening but finally had to go to the outside. While that was happening Buffoon was making the best of his way home.

They met again at Newmarket shortly afterwards. Odds were bettered on Buffoon, to concede 4lb, but Man About Town came through in the last furlong to beat him by a neck.

WEIGHT TOLD

Odds were again laid on Buffoon in Houghton week in heavy going, but the big weight told and he was never going like a winner. I did not altogether care for the manner in which the colt performed in the two races at Newmarket. There was not the fighting spirit I like to

see and on the first occasion he carried his head to one side.

Despite that, Buffoon was awarded 8st. 9lb. In the Free Handicap so he has not so much to make up. He is an extremely good looking colt and is by Tudor Minstrel out of Pointe-a-Pitre, a French mare, by Vatel out of Pointe de Vin, by Sourbier, going back to one of the stoutest lines in the French Stud Book.

When Tudor Minstrel sent to the stud it was generally thought he would transmit his brilliant speed to his stock. His best winner this year was Buckhound, who seemed to find a mile and three-quarters his right distance. Buffoon is only in the 2,000 Guineas, for which race he is likely to be trained. He may be a little flattered by his position in the Free Handicap.

Mr Dewar's other colt, Pugilist, failed to train on and is a store below Buffoon in the handicap. Pugilist has his fair share of good looks but will find his best opportunities in handicap company.

COINCIDENCE

Those who believe in coincidences will not overlook the fact that the half-brothers, Supreme Court and Court Splendour, each won one race as a two-year-old—the Morris Hill Stakes at Newbury in October.

Supreme Court went on to prove one of the best of his age as a three-year-old.

SLOW TO DEVELOP
As a member of a family that seems slow to develop, Court Splendour cannot be ruled out of calculations. It was in the nature of a tragedy that Supreme Court was not nominated for any of the classic races.

Court Splendour is in all three for which he is eligible. He is rather overshadowed at the moment by his stable com-

panion, Landau, but, whatever happens, Court Splendour should not be lacking in stamina.

He did not come into his own until running over a distance slightly in excess of seven furlongs.

The form as it stands does not make Court Splendour to be anything out of the ordinary and I do not think he has the brilliant finishing speed of his elder relative.

The rising three-year-old may pick up in that direction and, having been given every chance to develop in his own time, may make more progress than some of those above him in the Free Handicap.—London Express Service.

SOVIET SKATERS MAY VISIT HONGKONG

Tokyo, Dec. 23.
The Japan Skating Federation is negotiating with the reluctant Foreign Office for the entry of a 20-member Soviet skating team for the World Speed Skating Championships to be held in Sapporo on January 16 and 17.

The skating body received a cable from its Soviet counterpart yesterday that it intended to send 20 skaters to Japan for the meeting via Hongkong.

The cable also expressed the desire that the Soviet representatives be given visas for entrance into Japan at Hongkong.

The Foreign Office, although reported willing to vouch the Soviet passports at Hongkong, is said to be hesitant because of the large size of the Soviet team.—Reuter.

ANNUAL MEETING TODAY

BADMINTON ASSOCIATION FACES ITS MOST EVENTFUL YEAR

By "ARGONAUT"

The Annual General Meeting of the Hongkong Badminton Association this afternoon at the Hongkong Cricket Club will not only bring to a close another successful year of badminton in the Colony, but also put the Association face to face with what may well be its most eventful year in history.

Along with the usual items of passing of the statement of accounts and annual report and the election of new officers, the agenda includes a discussion and a decision on Hongkong's participation in the forthcoming South-East Asia Championships and the Thomas Cup Competition.

Two points will undoubtedly be brought out against Hongkong's participation in both these events—the Colony's comparatively low standard and the difficulty of raising funds. The first point may be further stretched by comparing Hongkong's standard even with that of Thailand.

The Colony Ladies' Champion for the last three years, Miss Ulian Khoo, who recently returned from Bangkok after a series of games there, endorsed the opinion shared by Wong Peng-soon that Thailand has improved tremendously within the last four years and is now a step ahead of Hongkong.

TOOK NO CHANCES

Wong took no chances in his match against Thailand's 19-year-old Champion and rightly so. Although the contest was sternly contested and was not scored until after a succession of thrilling rallies.

However, this reported improvement of the standard of the game in Thailand should provide Hongkong with an excellent example of the benefit that can be derived by participating in such a competition as the Thomas Cup.

The Thailand Badminton Association did not hesitate to take part even in the first year of the competition. They sustained a crushing 3-0 defeat in their first round tie against India, but did they get discouraged? On the contrary an unbounded incentive was given to the Thai players to do better in the next competition.

As a result they now have the nucleus of a team that will not only be capable of avenging their previous defeat by India, but they also provide a potential threat to Malaya's supremacy.

In their 19-year-old Champion they have a replica of Wong Peng-soon not only in strokes and particularly the backhand flick, but also in attire—right up even to the black shorts, white belt and side towel.

Hongkong can never expect to raise its badminton standard and at the same time provide an all-important incentive to its rising players unless it takes a greater part in international competitions.

The question of finance should not pose such a great problem as imagined. In both the South-East Asia Championships and the Thomas Cup competitions, provisions are made for participating nations to recoup their travelling expenses from the gate receipts should these be adequate enough, and to share in the net profits if any.

In the past two years a number of the Colony's best players have demonstrated their keenness in travelling abroad even at their own expenses.

LUCK OF THE DRAW

The financial problem in the case of Hongkong's participation in the Thomas Cup may be a little more difficult. However, even this has been lightened considerably by the recent decision of the International Badminton Federation to split what was formerly the Pacific Zone into two zones—Asian and Australasian.

This means that if Hongkong joins the Asian Zone, it will have to play only in the confines of Asia and the farthest that it will have to travel will be Bombay. It may even be likely that the draw may result in Hong-

kong having to play the match at home.

Entries for the Thomas Cup competition close on January 1, 1954, and the draw will take place during the week ending January 9. It is strongly advocated that Hongkong submit its entry.

FIVE MONTHS

The first round will probably not take place until the end of June, leaving Hongkong almost five months to work out ways and means of raising the required funds if necessary. Should the HKBA eventually fail in their attempt to raise the funds, which is not likely if they work hard enough, they can always concede a walkover and say that at least they have tried.

A fund for the purpose should be started immediately an affirmative decision has been made by the HKBA and a donation list opened. Two other good means of raising part of the funds will be the staging of one special match for the purpose with the visiting Malayan Thomas Cuppers and the holding of a special Ball at the end of this season's Championships.

To round up its plans for a bumper year, the Hongkong Badminton Association would do well to do its utmost to get Hongkong as the venue of the next South-East Asia Championships in 1955.

This application should be strongly put forward at the meeting of delegates of South-East Asia Badminton Associations to be held during the first South-East Asia Championships in Singapore next year.

Hongkong has been repeatedly mentioned as an ideal place for international competitions in view of its location and climate and such a meet will provide the Hongkong Badminton Association with its best means of promoting and encouraging the sport in Hongkong.

In the local sphere, the Hongkong Badminton Association should make every effort to step up its programme of building up youthful talent and spreading the game to a wider following.

The Hongkong Schools Sports Association is doing a grand job in taking care of the increasing number of schoolboy and

schoolgirl shuttlers. This year's Schools and Schoolgirls' Championships, entries for which close at 5.30 this afternoon, promise to be the "biggest yet."

Consideration will have to be given by the HKBA to extending its activities in other directions—in providing facilities for the great number of unprivileged children who are in sore need of some form of recreation and also for lower salaried workers who cannot afford to join the limited number of badminton clubs in the Colony and who, judging from the number of enquiries received, constitute quite a large group.

A couple of extremely enthusiastic badminton philanthropists have signalled their willingness to subsidise a fund to be used for such a purpose, and there will probably be a few more who will come to the support of such a scheme if the Association could start it going.

A Chinese press publicity member in the Committee will be a great asset to the Association in view of the growing popularity of the game among the Chinese-reading public.

MUCH HARD WORK

Such an ambitious programme as laid out will call for a great deal of interest and hard work from the incoming Committee of the Hongkong Badminton Association. In this respect the Association cannot be said to have been very fortunate in the past. Sectional interest, petty jealousies, personal considerations, arm-chair criticisms, and the pleasures and satisfactions of picking out faults, shortcomings and loopholes are as usual the handicaps the Association has had to face in the past year and many a time the fact has been forgotten that "rules are made for the game and not the game for the rules."

As long, however, as the Association puts the interest of the game uppermost, it will not go far wrong—and let us hope that most of the Colony's doyens who have so far shown their interest and support in words come up with more concrete action by taking up responsible positions in the Association's activities.

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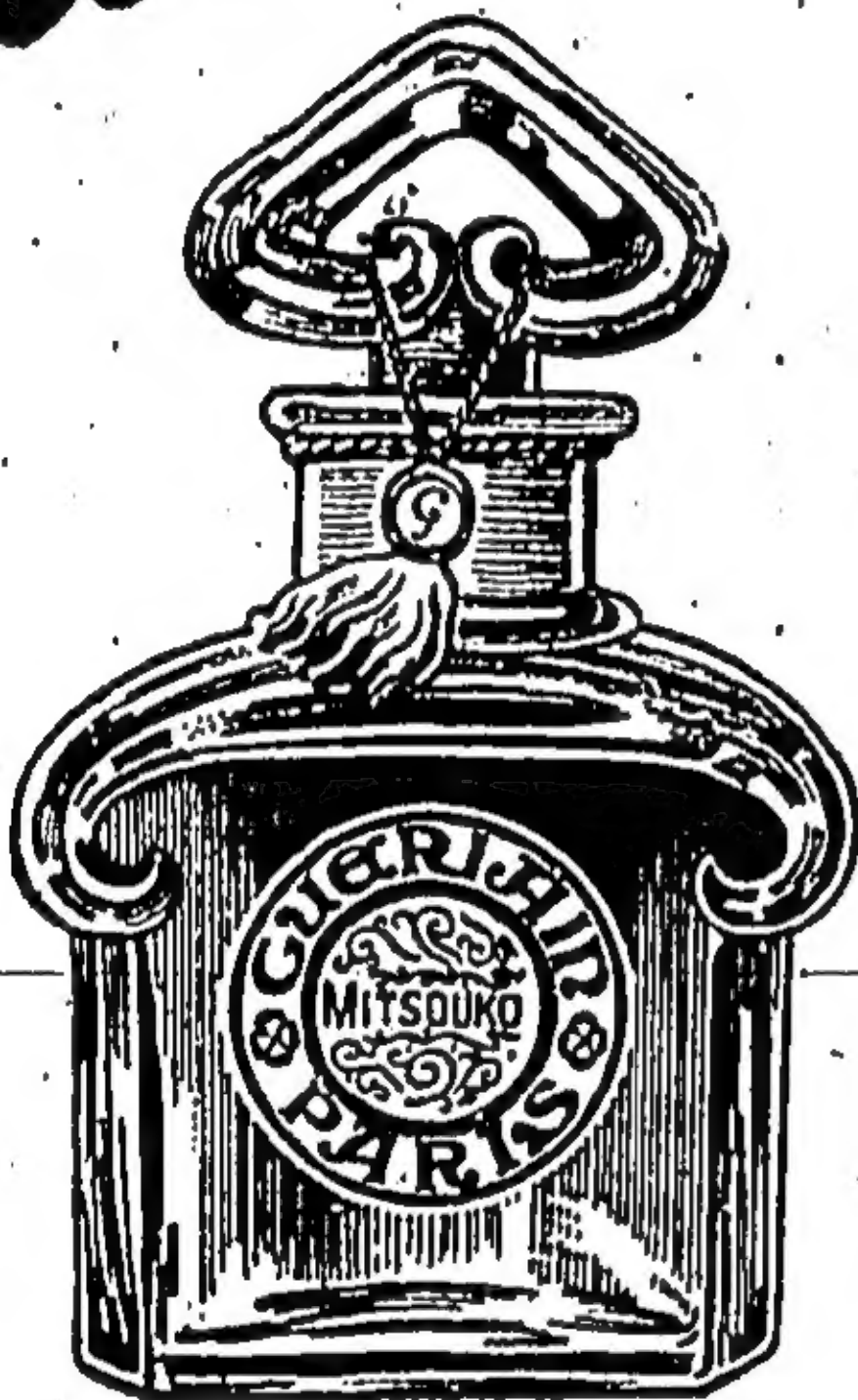


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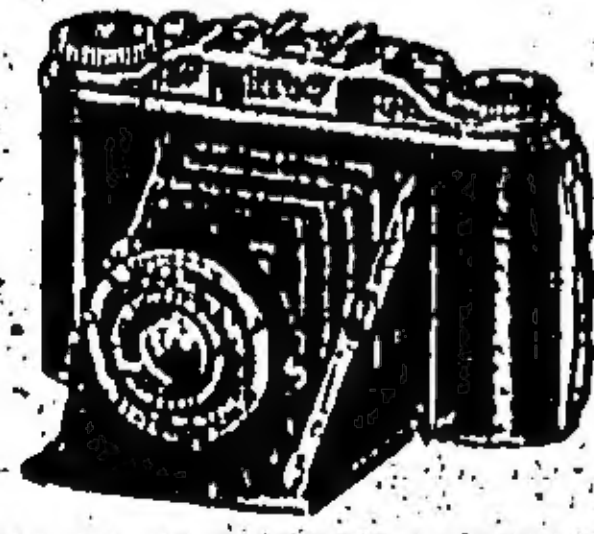
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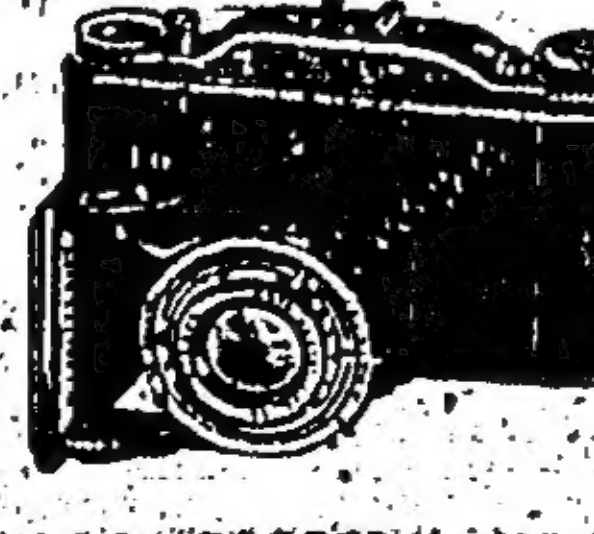


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S. "EUMAEUS"	do	25th Jan. 1954
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PERSONAL

Sir Man Kam and Lady Lo take this opportunity to wish all their relatives and friends a merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year, and to reciprocate all kind wishes received. They hope they may be excused for not sending out individual greetings.

MRS BEATRICE CHURCH thanks all her kind friends for their Christmas and New Year Greetings, which she sincerely reciprocates. As she has only just returned to the Colony, she trusts they will excuse her for not sending out individual greetings.

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NOTICE

BANK HOLIDAYS

The Exchange Banks will be closed for the transaction of public business on Friday and Saturday, 25th and 26th December 1953. (Christmas holidays).

Hongkong, 23rd Dec., 1953.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

CONSIGNEES FOR AUSTRALIA-WEST PACIFIC LINE

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are hereby notified that their cargo is being discharged into the Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co's godown where it will be at consignee's risk and subject to the Wharf's terms and condition of storage, and where delivery may be obtained.

Damaged packages are to be left in the godown for examination by Consignees and the Company's surveyors, Messrs. Carmichael & Clarke at 10 a.m. on the 23rd December, 1953.

To comply with the General Bonded Warehouse Regulations, consignees must have a Revenue Officer in attendance when damaged dutiable goods are examined.

No claims will be admitted after the goods have left the steamer's godown, and all goods remaining undelivered after the 24th December 1953, will be subject to rent.

All claims against the steamer must be presented to the Underwriter on or before the 31st December 1953, or they will not be recognized.

No Fire Insurance will be effected.

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Hongkong, 19th December 1953.

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Special Announcements and Classified Advertisements as usual.

Record Oil Demand In America

New York, Dec. 22, Domestic demand for petroleum products in the United States reached an all time record in 1953, the 11th year in succession, according to the annual report of the American Petroleum Institute released today.

The increase over last year's demand is estimated at 4.6 per cent, but the Institute's President Mr. Frank M. Fox said the industry had no difficulty in supplying the increase.

According to API figures, 1953 demand was estimated at 2,781,000,000 barrels, an increase of 116,000,000 barrels on 1952.

Domestic US supply was estimated at 2,608,000,000 barrels.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

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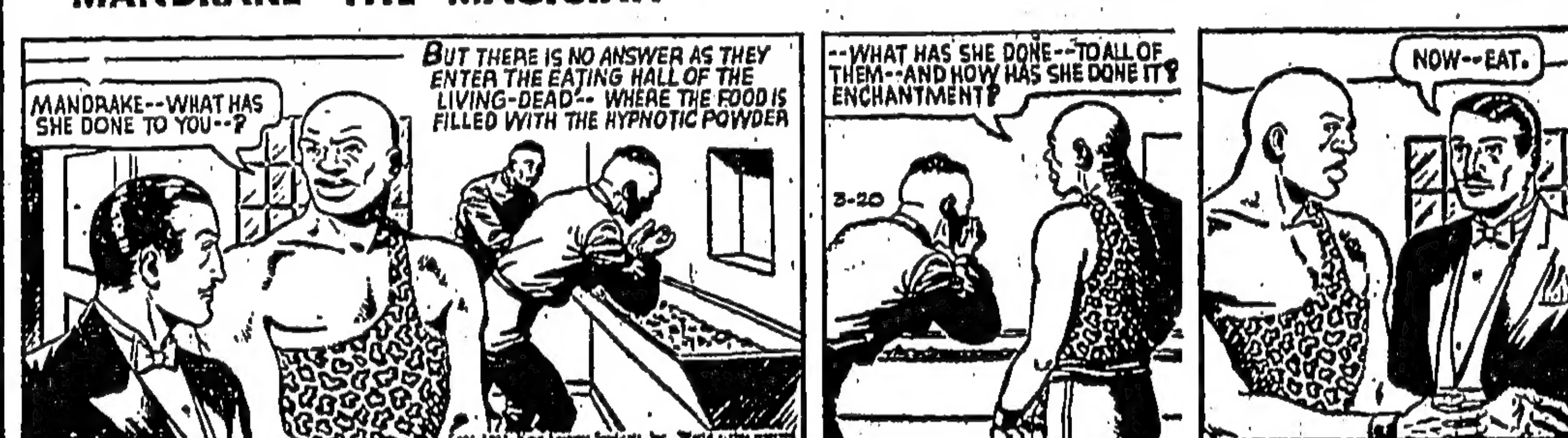
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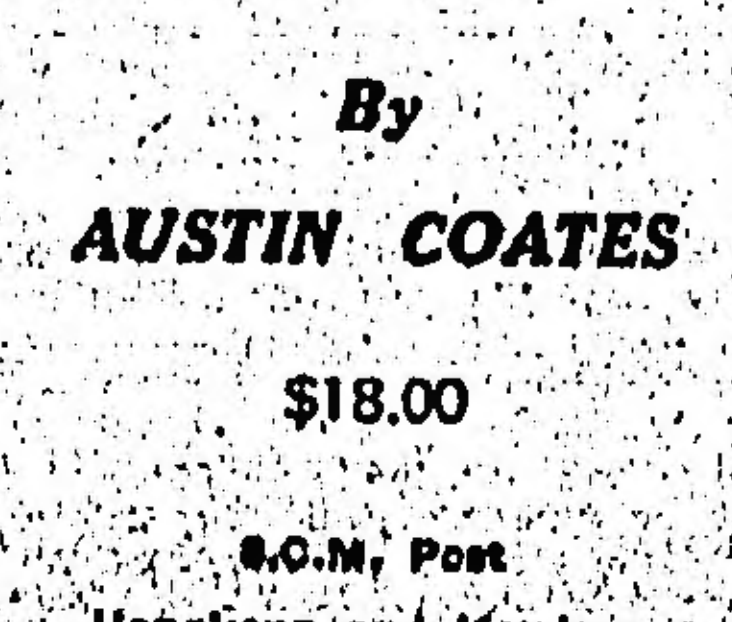
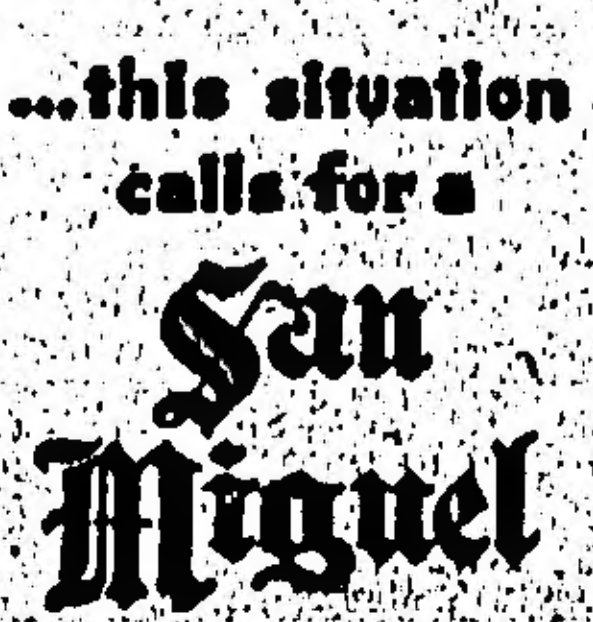
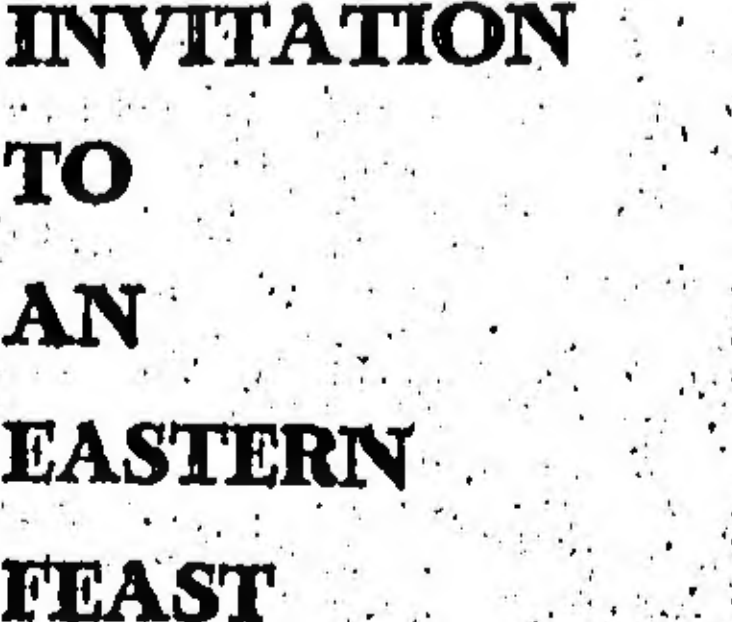
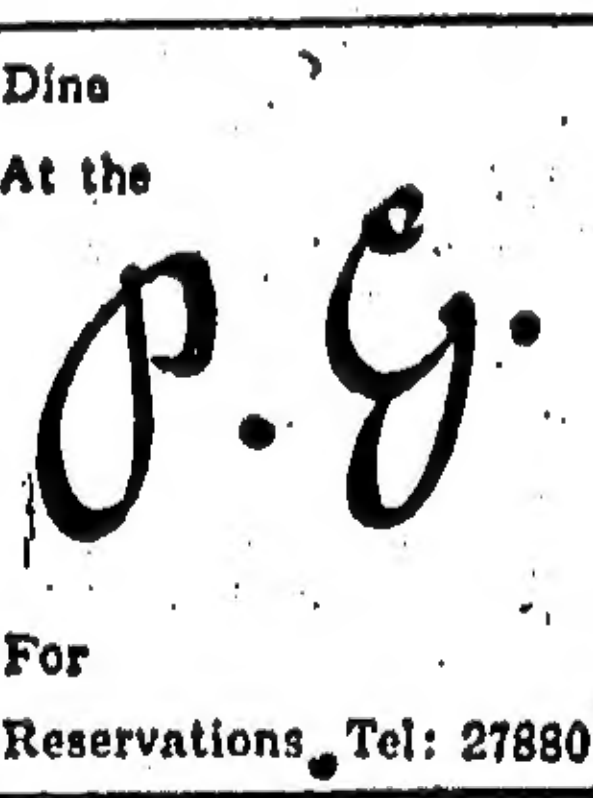
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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1953.

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JOHN CLARKE'S CASEBOOK

Railway Lover

ALMOST the only section of the community, I suppose, able to regard a Christmas rail strike with complete indifference are those who regularly appear in the docks of London's courts.

They travel little and then, as a rule, in plain, dark vans, with policemen for chauffeurs; they neither receive nor send much in the way of mail, and where food is concerned, they live off the country, wherever they happen to find themselves.

Of course, there are exceptions. Men like Raymond, Raymond would miss the railways badly if there were none. What attracts him mostly to this way of travel is that it can be paid for retrospectively not with money, which is so hard to come by, but with a short prison sentence.

JOURNEY'S LOG

IF there were many like him, all transport concerns would have to quote alternatives to suit his kind. Air fares would cost so much in sterling or, alternatively, so many weeks in gaol. Competition on the North Atlantic shipping run would show it in cut-rate prison sentences for stowaways.

At stations up and down the country Raymond has been in trouble for trying to travel free.

At Yarmouth (Vauxhall), Lincoln (Central), Salisbury, to name three stations he has lately used, Raymond has stepped from a train and cheerfully confessed at the ticket barrier that he had neither ticket nor the price of one from where he had come.

RAYMOND'S FARES

HE has been charged for this omission at varying rates. At Yarmouth, they sent him to prison for one month; at Lincoln settled for 28 days. At Salisbury, on the softer-hearted Western Region, the "fare" demanded was only a fortnight.

The other day, Raymond went to the station at Bedford (Midland Road) and took a platform ticket to St. Pancras.

"I'll want 7s. 4d. from you," an inspector later told him. "Haven't got it," Raymond said. "Your name and address."

"Don't have an address," Raymond answered. It was true enough.

At the Clerkenwell court, next morning, Raymond, a tall, bronzed, man of 26, pleaded guilty to defrauding the railways to the tune of 7s. 4d.

HIS TERMINUS

"THIS man," said a police officer, to Mr. T. F. Davies, the magistrate, "was working as a labourer in York. His pay was £10 a week, and he decided to come to London to look for a better job. He says he hitch-hiked as far as Bedford, then took a train."

"What does all this mean?" the magistrate asked Raymond. "If you earn all this money, haven't you got 7s. 4d. for a railway fare? Have you got a link about travelling on the railways without paying? What's the point of it all?"

"I'd no money," Raymond said, with a shrug and a smile. "But bless my soul, you'd be earning £10 a week, and had only yourself to keep," said the magistrate. "Many men keep families on that amount and less."

DESTINATION

RAYMOND smiled, as if to say such men must be fools. "Go to prison for a month," the magistrate ordered. Raymond went off with a queer, crooked, private smile. One thing, his smile said, the rail strike should be settled by the time he was free to travel again.

Meantime, his expression seemed to say, what a nice change it would make if police and prison wardens, and magistrates, would sometimes go on strike. And if they were to be joined by ticket inspectors, who also, indirectly, represent the law, well, then life would become very tolerable indeed.

Printed and published by WILLIAM ALICE GRIFFITHS for and on behalf of South China Morning Post Limited at 1-3 Wyndham Street, City of Victoria, in the Colony of Hongkong.

Jolliffe Denied Christmas Request

Manila, Dec. 23. Canadian businessman William Ernest Jolliffe was denied permission to spend Christmas with his family in Hongkong yesterday pending the termination of his trial here for attempted gold smuggling.

Judge Bienvenido Tan said he personally favoured granting Jolliffe's request if only for an act of Christian charity, but expressed regret that to do so probably would run counter to local laws.

Despite the state prosecutor's vigorous objection to allow the Canadian-born Jolliffe to spend Christmas in Hongkong, however, Judge Tan said he would study the matter further. The defence counsel manifested a willingness to post a bond in addition to the present \$5,000 bond under which Jolliffe has been temporarily released, so he could be with his family.

FAST TRIAL

Jolliffe, who was formerly a member of the Canadian Trade Commissioner's Office in Hongkong, was allegedly caught with over \$17,000 worth of gold bullion as he was about to embark for Hongkong on December 7.

The defence lawyers yesterday afternoon rested their case in a fast trial which started on Monday. The prosecution and defence were given 24 hours to file their respective supporting memoranda, and Judge Tan was expected to hand down his decision after Christmas.

Jolliffe claimed in his defence that he was ignorant of Philippine laws on gold shipments from the country. But he stoutly denied that he tried to bribe with \$15,000 a deputy customs collector, Eugene Manalili, as claimed by the latter, to quash the case. However, Jolliffe admitted ownership of the gold bullion seized from him.

—France-Press.

Close Watch On Manila Carolers

Manila, Dec. 23. Christmas carolers in Manila and suburbs are being closely watched by army operatives as the intelligence service reported that Huk Communists bearing guitars, violins, maracas and other musical instruments have infiltrated from the province as carolers (Latin-American styled musicians).

This novel way of coming to the metropolitan area appeared to have been employed by the dissidents from the start of the Yuletide season. Posing as cumbancheros the dissidents passed army check-points unobserved.

Intelligence sources said the Huk resorted to this method because of the sight army surveillance which disrupted the dissident communications system. However, no link has been seen yet by army sources between the infiltrating Huk and members of the dissident assassination squad with the supposed mission to liquidate President-elect Ramon Mag-saysay and other government officials.

—France-Press.

Right To Shout Back Ruling

Singapore, Dec. 23. Policemen shout at the general public, so it's fair enough for the individual to shout back occasionally.

The Singapore Magistrate said today that police officers should be so sensitive when the public shouts back at them. Who do they think they are?

This Steer Easily Won 1st Prize



Singing & Dancing Greets "Come Home" Broadcast To POWs

Panmunjom, Dec. 23. American and South Korean non-repatriate prisoners sang loudly and danced around the compound when Major Edward Moorer began a "come home" broadcast to Americans this morning. It was the United Nations final attempt to coax Americans home on the last day of the 90-day explaining period.

The broadcast urged Americans who desired repatriation to ask Indian guards standing nearby to take them from the compound.

Major Moorer, who comes from Tacoma, Washington, told the prisoners that the United Nations Command believed some of them were being forcibly prevented from expressing their free will and now was the chance for them to ask for repatriation without danger.

There was a slight delay in the start of United Nations explanations when the Neutral Repatriation Commission subcommittee, including an attractive Polish blonde, objected to part of the messages to be broadcast to United States prisoners. Major Michael B. McNabb, of Peebles, Scotland, to broadcast to the lone British Marine Andrew Condron, and Lieutenant-Colonel Chol Kyuk Kyon to broadcast to Koreans.

The start of the tape recorded message was the signal for a wild demonstration on the part of South Korean prisoners. Some of the Americans joined in a wild dance and started chanting. The broadcast started at 11:09.

LAST ATTEMPT

Earlier Communist explanations began their last attempt to win back some of the North Korean and Chinese non-repatriated prisoners.

Four Communist explanations are scheduled to interview 41 North Koreans who have requested that they be sent to a neutral country.

In his broadcast Major Moorer told American prisoners that the United Nations Command believed that some of them wanted to return home but were being forcibly prevented from expressing their free will by fear, threats and strong-arm methods of certain of your fellow prisoners.

He said: "It is clear that your so-called representatives are withholding information and restricting your freedom to speak and act as individuals. Do not be afraid. Seven Koreans and one American have returned to freedom from your compound. They report that they liked their lives in order to escape. You can obtain your freedom without danger if you take advantage of the safe situation which exists here at this time."

The United States explained that Indian guards were present to assure prisoners' safety, and United Nations representatives were there to receive any who desired to return home.

This magnificent 9 cwt steer, called Glamorous Night, easily won a first prize at the Smithfield Show held at Earl's Court recently. On show were 1,500 animals and 370 machinery stands.—London Express photo.

HIS LEGAL RIGHTS AT ISSUE

Washington, Dec. 22. An Appeals Court had under consideration today the case of Robert W. Toth, 22, who was flown to Korea for an Air Force court-martial several months after he had been discharged from the service.

The young Pittsburgh steel worker was accused of murdering a Korean civilian. He is now back at his old job while lawyers and judges argue and mediate over his constitutional rights.

Federal Judge Alexander Holtz, the first jurist to hear the case, found the Air Force had no authority to rush Toth to Korea without a hearing and last August ordered him brought back. The Government took the case to the United States Appeals Court.

Yesterday, Mr. John J. McGrath, Pittsburgh attorney, told the three-man panel that once Toth became a civilian, "he was entitled to the full protection of the Constitution."

As a civilian he should be entitled to an indictment by a grand jury.

Under questioning by Circuit Judge E. Barrett Prettyman, Mr. McGrath agreed that no US Grand Jury would have jurisdiction over a crime committed in Korea. Therefore, he said, under the circumstances Toth cannot be tried at all.

The Air Force was acting under a section of the Military Code which permits the arrest of ex-servicemen for certain serious crimes committed while in uniform. Mr. McGrath claims that this section is unconstitutional.

Mr. Oliver Gasch, Assistant US Attorney, contended that the civil and military systems of justice did not overlap. In enacting this particular provision, Mr. Gasch argued, Congress was trying to make sure that persons who were guilty of offences while in the service would not escape punishment merely by getting out.

He said that if military justice was the appropriate method for handling a particular case, the place of trial should not make any difference. "Trials must take place where the witnesses are," he said.—United Press.

Malaya's Trade Declines

Kuala Lumpur, Dec. 23. Malaya's external trade dropped—41,000,000 Straits dollars (about \$4,783,383) in November compared with October. Imports were about \$102,800,000 against \$124,000,000 in October. Exports totalled \$110,300,000, which represented a drop of \$20,500,000 from October. Singapore took the lion's share of the trade, it was stated. The Straits dollar is valued at 2/4d sterling.—Reuter.

Found Guilty Of Murder: Mercy Recommendation

Unanimously found guilty by a Jury of murder, Chan Kau, alias Chan Kai, 26, was this morning sentenced by Mr Justice C. W. Reece, Puisne Judge, at the Criminal Sessions to death by hanging.

In returning their verdict, the Jury of six men and one woman added a recommendation for mercy on the grounds that the accused had no prior intention of killing.

They had deliberated for one hour and 15 minutes before announcing their verdict.

In passing sentence, Mr Justice Reece told the accused that the Jury had made a recommendation for mercy and he would pass that recommendation on to H.E. the Governor for his consideration.

On hearing the death sentence passed and as accused was led away to the cells from the dock by warders, the accused's wife broke down and sobbed bitterly and was assisted from the Court by friends.

It was the case for the Prosecution that the accused fatally slashed at Chan Fook, a Naval Dockyard employee, with a broad knife in Argyle Street, near the Sun Wah Theatre, on the evening of July 23, when it was alleged that a gang of men laid in wait for another party.

The Crown contended that the deceased was killed as a result of a feud arising from friction between two factions of Dockyard labourers employed on Stonecutters Island. The deceased was associated with one of the factions, but the accused was not, but was friendly with members of the other faction.

The Prosecution was conducted by Mr W. A. Blair-Kerr, Senior Crown Counsel, assisted by Det. Sub-Insps. J. E. H. Hadden and Det. Sub-Insps. Jones. The accused was represented by Mr Leo Wing-keat, instructed by Mr F. H. Kwok.

At the end of the case, Mr Justice Reece excused the Jury from further service for three years.

SUMMING UP

In his summing up Mr Justice Reece told the Jury that, if they believed the statement the accused made to the Police on his arrest, it was a complete confession of his crime and on the statement alone, in the absence of anything the accused might say to explain it away, they were entitled to convict him of murder. The statement was taken down by the Police and finished off by the accused himself and no challenge had been made as to the manner in which the statement was taken.

If the Crown was satisfied the Jury that death was caused by the voluntary act of the accused with that necessary intention to do it from which malice could be implied then the Jury were at liberty to find the accused guilty unless they found something in the evidence to reduce it to the lesser crime of manslaughter or to reduce it altogether to such a set of circumstances as would warrant them in law to say he was not guilty.

Dealing with the defences raised, Mr Justice Reece said that as regards the alibi that there was no intention to do grievous bodily harm, he would say that when a man used such an instrument as the broad-knife displayed in the manner in which it must have been used to cause such injuries which almost decapitated the deceased the man must have intended to cause grievous bodily harm because the law presumed every man to be responsible for the cause of his actions.

NO EVIDENCE

The Judge declared there was no evidence to support the defence of justifiable homicide if the Jury believed the Crown witnesses. These testified that the deceased was walking innocently about his normal occupation. The only case in which one could talk of justifiable homicide was if the deceased held a weapon which would justify the accused using the broad-knife. There was no evidence that the deceased had any weapon at all.

In his opinion there was also no evidence of self-defence at all, continued Mr Justice Reece. The evidence showed that the accused ran away from the fight to a bread-stall and picked up the bread-knife to go back to hack the deceased. The accused said the deceased was a bigger man, but according to the doctor the deceased was thin and suffering from advanced tuberculosis.

In the present case there was not the beginning of a defence of self-defence unless the Jury found the accused was in immediate danger of his life with no other means of resisting having retreated as far as he could. According to his own evidence the deceased had only attacked him with his fist. If the Jury found he had acted in self-defence and the injuries

caused were an accident then they should acquit him, but they must be satisfied on the evidence that such a conclusion was justified.

PROVOCATION DOCTRINE

Mr Justice Reece read to the Jury the doctrine of provocation which would reduce the crime to manslaughter. The accused must satisfy the Jury that the dead man so provoked him that he suddenly lost his self-control rendering him so subject to passion as to make him not master of his mind at that time so that he used the broad-knife on the deceased. But there was no such evidence. The deceased was attacked on his way from a dinner with friends to a cafe for a cup of coffee.

"It is my duty to tell you that in this case there is no evidence for a finding of provocation and you are to ignore this defence," said the Judge withdrawing the verdict of manslaughter from the Jury.

He told the Jury that the verdicts they could return were guilty or not guilty of murder. If they had a reasonable doubt it must be given to the accused. If they agreed that the evidence warranted self-defence and it was justifiable homicide then they would have to return a verdict of not guilty.

Mail Notices

The latest times of posting shown below are for registered articles posted at G.P.O. Hongkong. The latest posting times elsewhere which, in general, are earlier than the G.P.O. times, can be ascertained by enquiry at the local office. The latest posting times for registered articles are generally one hour earlier than the times shown below. Particulars regarding parcel mails can be ascertained by enquiry at any post office.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23

By Air
Japan, 6 p.m.
Formosa, 6 p.m.
Philippines, 6 p.m.
Macao, 6 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

By Air
India, Ceylon, 9 a.m.
Thailand, Burma, Pakistan, Middle East, Africa, Great Britain and Europe, 10 a.m.
Singapore, 11 a.m.
Japan, Noon.
Indo-China, Noon.
Formosa, 1 p.m.
Guam, Hawaii, U.S.A. and Canada, 1 p.m.
Malaya, 1 p.m.
Australia, New Zealand, 6 p.m.
Formosa, Okinawa, Japan, U.S.A. and Canada, 8 p.m.

By Surface
China, People's Republic, 8.30 a.m.
Macao, 9 a.m.
Malaya, 9 p.m.
Macao, 9 p.m.

Begged Only From Europeans

Standing in the dock before Mr Hin-shing Lo at Central this morning, Jose Maria Esteban Silva, 46, said in answer to a charge of vagrancy, "I never begged from Chinese, only from Europeans, because I suffer from epileptic seizures."

"Do you plead guilty to the charge?" asked the magistrate. Defendant, looking haggard and trembling violently, said "I'm very nervous, the European look me to prison for two days."

Inspector, Court Prosecutor, approached the dock and said "Do you admit begging from the European Police Inspector in plainclothes?"

Silva mumbled brokenly that he did beg and admitted having said that he needed the money to return to his ship.

Defendant was arrested on Monday morning by Sub-Inspector Apedale, whom he approached on Des Voeux Road Central opposite the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank.

Silva was remanded for 24 hours for the Police to confirm his British nationality. He was stated to be Hongkong born.

Radio Hongkong

11.15, Time Signal and Programme Summary. 12.00, Variety Requests presented by Margherita (Studio). 1.00, Weather Report. 1.15, Signal, World News and a Talk on the News (London Relay). 1.30, Orchestra of the Week—The Players (Concert Hall). 2.00, Echoes from the Show. 2.30, Christmas Concert—Rena Keown (Mezzo-Soprano), John Macleod (Baritone), Anthony Collins; 7.45, Letter from America by Allstar Cooke (Radio London Relay). 8.00, Echoes from the Show. 8.30, Christmas Concert—Rena Keown (Mezzo-Soprano), John Macleod (Baritone), Anthony Collins; 9.00, Time Signal. 9.15, The BBC Scottish Variety Orchestra, conducted by Guy Daines with piano accompaniment by Moya Rea. Cheng Chik-pui (Violin), with piano accompaniment by Moya Rea. 9.30, Christmas Concert—Rena Keown (Mezzo-Soprano), John Macleod (Baritone), Anthony Collins; 10.00, One Night Stand—Benjamin Goodman and his Orchestra. 10.15, Weather Report. 11.00, Time Signal. 11.15, Radio News. 11.30, Goodnight Music. 11.45, Goodnight Music. 12.00, Close Down.

'What's Her Line?' Solution
TICKET COLLECTOR
London Express Service.

SIDE GLANCES By Galbraith



12.20
Turn his high chair around till I hide this! I don't want to destroy his faith in Santa Claus!